

Seattle-to-Everett Track & Signal Upgrades

The rail line between Seattle and Everett is one of the busiest in the entire nation. Sounder commuter trains, Amtrak passenger trains and BNSF Railway Company freight trains all use the 30-mile-long corridor. To improve the safety and the movement of passenger and freight trains, BNSF, which owns the track, made a number of track and signal upgrades.

The improvements included adding a second track for safety and efficiency in some of the areas where there is only one track. The areas needing double tracking include tracks running through Edmonds and Mukilteo. The improvements also added six crossover sections where trains can cross from one track to another. Finally, they added 28 new train signals to bring the corridor up to BNSF's nationwide standards.

Sound Transit paid BNSF for the right to run four Sounder commuter trains in the north corridor. Sound Transit also undertook the environmental work and paid for environmental mitigation projects that included improvements to Willow and Deer creeks. BNSF planned, scheduled and built the track and signal work.

Mode

Commuter rail

Highlights

Location: Between Seattle and Everett